

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10018

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UR, US, ETRN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ISSUE FOR SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS - AIRCRAFT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 7471 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, SOVIET MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY INVITED LOCKHEED INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GEORGE PRILL TO MOSCOW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT INVOLVING SALE OF U.S. WIDE-BODIED PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND CONSTRUCTION OF PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR THESE AIRCRAFT IN USSR. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF FOLLOWING HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH SOVIETS JUNE 25, PRILL SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION SOVIETS WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY SHOULD RAISE SUBJECT OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT DURING SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRILL, HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH SOVIETS JUNE 25 WAS LARGELY TAKEN UP BY SOVIET QUESTIONS AS TO US GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PROPOSED AGREEMENT. PRILL FOUND SOVIETS EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER SENATOR JACKSON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRILL NOTED THAT LOCKHEED HAS BEEN OBLIGED TURN OVER TO SENATOR JACKSON'S STAFF A COPY OF PRELIMINARY SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AIRCRAFT PLANT AFTER SENATOR THREATENED RESORT TO SUBPOENA IN ORDER OBTAIN THIS MATERIAL. SOVIETS ASKED PRILL WHETHER JACKSON'S

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VIEWS WERE SHARED BY HIGHEST LEVELS OF US GOVERNMENT. PRILL

BASED HIS REPLY ON LETTERS WHICH LOCKHEED, AND OTHER US AIRCRAFT COMPANIES, HAD RECEIVED FROM COMMERCE DURING MARCH 1974 OUTLINING USG ATTITUDE. SOVIETS ASKED PRILL WHETHER HE THOUGHT US SIDE WOULD RAISE PROPOSED AGREEMENT DURING SUMMIT DISCUSSION. PRILL SAID HE TOLD SOVIETS HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS POINT AND ASKED WHETHER SOVIET SIDE INTENDED BROACH SUBJECT. SOVIETS SAID THEY WERE LIKEWISE UNINFORMED.

3. COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANCES OF SOVIET INVITATION TO PRILL AND TENOR OF INITIAL DISCUSSIONS SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS MAY BE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF RAISING PROPOSED AIRCRAFT AGREEMENT DURING SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS. PRILL HAS PROMISED KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS TALKS WITH SOVIETS. STOESSEL

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